

TEN-T – the EU transport network, the deadlines, and Norway's place in it

Upcoming episode

The EU transport network explained: what TEN-T actually covers, the three layers and the 2030, 2040 and 2050 deadlines, the nine corridors, the requirements on speed, signalling and train length – and how Norway connects.

MAIN TOPICS

- What TEN-T is, and why it is not only rail
- The three layers of the network, and the three deadlines
- The nine European Transport Corridors
- What the 2024 regulation actually requires
- ERTMS – one signalling system instead of twenty
- 740 metres, and why the number keeps coming up
- Norway's connection, and what it does not include
- What is worth being sceptical about

QUESTIONS THIS EPISODE ANSWERS

- What is TEN-T?
- Is TEN-T only a railway project?
- What is the difference between the core, extended core and comprehensive networks?
- Which deadlines apply – 2030, 2040 and 2050?
- Which nine corridors are there?
- What is ERTMS, and why is it needed?
- Why does everyone talk about 740-metre trains?
- Is Norway part of TEN-T?
- Does Norway receive EU funding for infrastructure through TEN-T?

KEY POINTS

- TEN-T is not a railway project. It covers roads, rail, ports, inland waterways, airports and terminals.
- The network has three layers with their own deadlines: core 2030, extended core 2040, comprehensive 2050.
- The nine corridors merge the former core network corridors and the rail freight corridors.
- The 160 km/h requirement applies to passenger lines on the core and extended core network, by 2040.
- ERTMS is to replace national signalling systems across the whole network.
- 740 metres is the length terminals and tracks must handle – a capacity requirement, not a speed one.

- The regulation was incorporated into the EEA Agreement in October 2025.
- Norway takes part in the rules, but not in the EU funding scheme behind them.

SOURCES AND REFERENCES

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- Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/eu-guidelines-for-developing-the-trans-european-transport-network.html>
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<https://www.efta.int/eea-lex/32024r1679>
- Council of the European Union – press release on final adoption of the TEN-T Regulation, 13 June 2024
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/13/trans-european-transport-network-ten-t-council-gives-final-green-light-to-new-regulation-ensuring-better-and-sustainable-connectivity-in-europe/>
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